



**United States Border Patrol
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 4, 2000

AMBULANCE USED AS LATEST PLOY IN SMUGGLING ATTEMPT AGENTS FOIL EFFORT: 22 ALIENS ARRESTED

Campo, California: Alien smugglers frustrated by the success of Operation Gatekeeper have been forced to resort to creative ploys in an effort to avoid detection and arrest. Yesterday, at approximately 2:30 PM, Border Patrol Agents operating in East County investigated a report of an ambulance being used to smuggle illegal aliens. Shortly after the report, agents observed an ambulance with official markings and emergency equipment traveling northbound on Buckman Springs Road. When agents attempted to verify the legitimacy of the ambulance, it was discovered that the license plate did not match the registration. Agents found twenty-two undocumented Mexican migrants in the vehicle, including the driver. The driver is being detained for prosecution of alien smuggling. The ambulance, which had been purchased at a local auction, was seized.

In the past, alien smugglers, in an effort to avoid detection, have utilized various methods including smuggling illegal aliens in motor homes and commercial vehicles (such as an SDG&E van), and costumed illegal aliens in military garb, Cal Trans uniforms and even firefighter outfits. With the success of Operation Gatekeeper, Border Patrol agents have learned to expect the unexpected.

**Video is available at the Public Information Office until 4:30 PM.
No further Information is Available.**